

# Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

May 1 - 31, 2021

The Civil Rights Division is recognizing Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month



## Employee Spotlight



### Amber Stuart

Software Developer—Adv, Information Technology Division.

She loves being outside enjoying in a lot of paddle boarding and hiking. She also finds delight in hanging at home with the dog and playing video games all night.

Joined TDOT Family April 2015

**Tell us about a moment in Asian American History that influenced or shaped your career/life?**  
I can't think of a particular moment that shaped my life, but seeing the Asian culture being embraced more now than it was growing up, has really made me proud of where my family has come from.

**Who within or outside TDOT has been influential in your career? Are they a mentor today?**  
The entire IT Division really influenced my career change! I'm fortunate to work with such supportive people that have helped and guided me through software school and beyond. If it wasn't for the product development team and the directors, I wouldn't be where I am today, so a HUGE thanks to them for pushing and believing in me.

**Which of the TDOT Values (Stewardship, Integrity, Safety, Consistency, Development, Innovation, Collaboration & Family) that are listed within the Strategic Plan, resonates with you and with diversity? State why?**

Collaboration! TDOT hires folks from all different types of backgrounds so everyone is bringing something different to the table which pairs well with the collaboration aspect of our work. Listening to other people's ideas and seeing how we all work differently or similarly is always a great learning experience.

**Why is it important to recognize Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, especially in 2021?**

I think it's important especially considering all of the chaos going on in the world that we celebrate and embrace Asian American Heritage and really all heritages and cultures. The stress of everything has somewhat divided people when this should be a time that we all come to a mutual understanding and be able to get through the chaos together.